

Agency: Education & Early Dev**Project Title:****Project Type:** Equipment and Materials

Start-up and Expansion of School Breakfast Programs

State Funding Requested: \$2,600,000**House District:** Statewide (1-40)

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Grants to schools to increase participation in the federal School Breakfast Program.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$2,600,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2023 State Funding Request:	(\$2,600,000)
Project Deficit:	\$0

Funding Details:

n/a

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

This funding would provide grants to schools to cover the expenses associated with starting a federal School Breakfast Program, or expanding an existing breakfast program to a best-practice model. This one-time funding would allow our state to maximize available federal nutrition funding while increasing access to healthy school meals for children across Alaska.

Research supports what educators and school officials see every day in our nation's schools: a well-nourished child who starts the day with breakfast is more likely to be at school, a better learner, and willing to participate in the classroom.

For too many families, there are obstacles to providing a healthy morning meal each day. Tight budgets for low-income families and busy morning schedules can mean that many students arrive at school hungry and not ready to learn. Fortunately, the School Breakfast Program plays a critical role in filling this void for millions of low-income children every school day.

However, not every school in Alaska participates in the School Breakfast Program (SBP). Of the 394 Alaskan schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), 30 do not currently offer breakfast. Furthermore, many schools already participating in the SBP do not yet utilize a best practice model for breakfast, such as breakfast after the bell, grab and go, or second chance. All these models have been proven to increase student participation.

Start up and expansion funding is requested to help grow and strengthen the School Breakfast Program in Alaska. Start up funding would be targeted to the schools currently participating in NSLP, but not offering SBP. Schools would need an estimated \$20k each to cover the costs associated with starting a breakfast program, including equipment, supplies, training, and staffing costs.

\$20k per school @ 30 schools = \$600,000 in funds for breakfast startup

Expansion funding would allow schools already participating in SBP to shift into a model that would increase participation, such as breakfast after the bell, grab and go, or second chance. COVID has complicated data collection around what models schools are currently offering, but it is understood that many school are not yet offering a best-practice model. We propose a pilot of 100 schools to look at how shifting breakfast models impacts participation. Like the start up model, expansion funding costs would include equipment, supplies, training, and staff costs.

\$20k per school @100 schools = \$2 million for breakfast expansion pilot

By not offering school breakfast or offering it in a way that is not well-utilized by students we are leaving federal dollars on the table, and kids are missing out on nutritious meals. Congress is currently considering an expansion to the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which allows schools that meet the eligibility criteria to offer free school meals to all. Schools must offer breakfast to utilize CEP. By providing a one-time infusion of funding to schools, we can remove some of the barriers that have kept them from previously offering breakfast. This will allow us to bring more federal nutrition resources into our state now and in the future.

Project Timeline:

We are requesting one-time funding to be fully awarded to schools within a 3 year period.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Individual schools/districts

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Jo Dawson
 Title: Child Nutrition Program Manager
 Address: 801 West 10th Street, Suite 200
 Juneau, Alaska 99801
 Phone Number: (907)465-8708
 Email: Jo.Dawson@Alaska.gov

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☐ Yes ☒ No